

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**CLAIMS LISTING**

1. (Currently amended) A paddle comprising:
  - a shaft having a cross-sectional width and at least one recessed portion located on said shaft, said at least one recessed portion being a lesser cross-sectional width than said shaft cross-sectional width thereby creating at least one transverse ridge at the junction of said shaft cross-sectional width and said at least one recessed portion;
  - a blade; and
  - a grip for interlocking in said at least one recessed portion of said shaft, wherein the blade includes (1) a single-piece skeleton having ~~at least~~ three ribs that extend distally from the longitudinal centerline of said single-piece skeleton towards the outer periphery of said blade and ending substantially at said outer periphery of said blade to reinforce the blade both longitudinally and laterally and (2) an outer surface injection molded directly around and enclosing said single-piece skeleton and said ~~at least~~ three ribs, wherein the single-piece skeleton and the outer surface are made of different and/or the same molded materials, wherein the blade is attached to the shaft, and wherein the at least one recessed portion includes a surface profile, and the grip includes a complimentary surface profile to engage the surface profile of the at least one recessed portion to removably interlock the grip to the shaft.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently amended) The paddle of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least~~ three ribs have a wing-shaped cross-section.
4. (Previously presented) The paddle of claim 1, wherein the molded material of the single-piece skeleton includes plastic.
5. (Previously presented) The paddle of claim 1, wherein the molded material of the outer surface includes composite materials.

6. (Original) The paddle of claim 1, wherein the shaft is shaped to provide an ergonomic placement and alignment of the grip for a hand of a paddler.
7. (Original) The paddle of claim 1, wherein the shaft is bent such that (1) a centerline of a first portion of the shaft is offset from a centerline of a second portion of the shaft by at least one of (i) more than 10 degrees and (ii) less than 17 degrees, and (2) a centerline of a third portion of the shaft bisect the center portion of the first portion of the shaft.
8. (Previously presented) The paddle of claim 7, wherein the complimentary surface profile of the grip engages the surface profile of the at least one recessed portion at the first portion of the shaft, and wherein the blade is attached to the shaft at the third portion of the shaft.
9. (Original) The paddle of claim 1, wherein the shaft includes a molded composite.
10. (Previously presented) The paddle of claim 1, wherein the complimentary surface profile of the grip engages the surface profile of the at least one recessed portion to also locate the grip, relative to the shaft, in a predetermined orientation and position.

Claims 11 – 17 . (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A paddle blade comprising:
- a single-piece skeleton having at least three ribs that extend distally from the longitudinal centerline of said single-piece skeleton towards the outer periphery of said paddle blade and ending substantially at said outer periphery of said paddle blade; and
  - an outer surface enclosing the single-piece skeleton, wherein the single-piece skeleton and said at least three ribs reinforces the paddle blade longitudinally and/or laterally, wherein the outer surface is injection molded directed around the single-piece skeleton and the ~~at least~~ three ribs, and wherein the single-piece skeleton and the outer surface are made of different molded materials.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The paddle blade of claim 18, wherein the ~~at least~~ three ribs have a wing-shaped cross-section.

21. (Previously presented) The paddle blade of claim 18, wherein the injection molded material of the single-piece skeleton is made from a material selected from the group consisting of plastic and composite materials.

22. (Previously presented) The paddle blade of claim 18, wherein the injection molded material of the outer surface includes a material selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate and composite materials.